

D-8564

SOV
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

File No.

8564

Special Branch

REPORT

Date May 26, 1939

Subject. Article in the newspaper "Na Rodinu" containing remarks derogatory to local Russian clergy - editor interviewed.

Made by and Forwarded by C.D.I. Ross

Mr. N. F. Svetloff-Svinyin, responsible editor of the newspaper "Na Rodinu", was interviewed at headquarters on May 25. He was informed that the Police strongly objected to the article in question and that should he, despite repeated warnings, persist in publishing articles likely to offend the susceptibility of any section of the local foreign community and to affect adversely peace and order, his paper would be suppressed.

Mr. Svetloff claimed that the article was published with the intention of exposing the local Russian clergy who, in his opinion, were engaged in political activities, a procedure which was objected to by the entire Russian community. However, in view of this warning he promised to refrain from publishing matters of a detrimental nature in future and would abide by the instructions of the Police.

DBR
C. D. I.

FILE

D. C. (Special Branch)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Section 1, Special Branch
REPORT

Date May 23, 1939

Subject. Article in the newspaper "Na Rodinu" containing derogatory remarks regarding local Russian clergy.

Made by D.S.I. Prokofiev.

Forwarded by

C. Crawford

In the issue dated 20-5-39 of the weekly newspaper "Na Rodinu" published by the "Repatriation Union", 105 Love Lane, a pro-Soviet organization, appeared an article entitled "How and why I decided to return to Russia". In this article Mr. SVETLOFF (Svinyin), who is the responsible editor of the newspaper in question, endeavours to refute the allegations regarding religious persecutions in the U.S.S.R. and to justify the attitude of the Soviet Government towards religion generally. The article contains the following passage relating to members of the Russian clergy in Shanghai:-

"... Take for instance Russian clergymen in Shanghai. What are they doing? They are engaged mainly in political activities. The head of the local diocese himself, Bishop John, is a confirmed monarchist. His sermons are pure panegyrics of monarchy.

Even the "freethinking" emigrant community is indignant over this fact. Indeed, the community consists of persons of different political opinions of whom, strictly speaking, only a negligible group are monarchists. Therefore this forcing of monarchist ideas upon the entire community has an extremely unpleasant effect on many of its members.

Our Russian clergy was too debauched by the tsarist regime who encouraged and protected those clergymen who sang praises to the regime in their sermons. The memory of "great favours" bestowed by the tsarist government on the clergy devoted to that government, is

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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REPORT

Station,

Date. 19

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Subject.

Made by.

Forwarded by.

still alive in the hearts of the emigrant clergy who dream of the restoration of such a "kind" government"...

Mr. Svetloff promises to let the readers know about his personal attitude towards religious matters in one of the next issues of his newspaper. However, the article under review contains a remark from which his attitude may be easily guessed:-

".. I am told that the Soviet Government conducts an active propaganda against religion and that therefore this government is an enemy of religion.

To this I reply: quite right. The best people of our country comprising the party and the government treat equally all religions and also consider all religions equally obnoxious, useless and obstructing people's enlightenment and development of culture and science. In their endeavours to raise the cultural standard of the people the Soviet Government encourage the anti-religious propaganda by all means at their disposal".....

This outburst against members of the local Russian clergy, the general tone of the article in question and of a number of other articles published in this newspaper recently, do not seem to be in keeping with Mr. Svetloff's promise "to endeavour not to repeat any of the mistakes that have been done" when he applied for permission to resume the publication of his newspaper and the "peaceful work of study of the U.S.S.R." (vide letter dated 29-9-38).

A. Prokofiev
D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

202
P.A. 10. 9 (92 Br.)
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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Section 1, Special Branch *Slashed!*

REPORT

Date *October 3, 1938*

Subject Application dated 29-9-38 from Chairman of the "Repatriation Union" for permission to resume activities of their club and publication of weekly paper "Na Rodinu".

Made by D.S.I. Prokofiev.

Forwarded by *C. Crawford J.I.*

Mr. N.F. Svetloff (Svinyin), Chairman of the "Repatriation Union" and responsible editor of the weekly paper "Na Rodinu" sponsored by this organization, was interviewed by the D.C. (Special Branch) on October 3, 1938 at Headquarters. He was told that the Union and their club may resume their activities forthwith provided that they undertake to strictly abide by the condition on which registration had originally been granted to them, namely, that they should not engage in public political activities whatsoever.

With regard to the paper "Na Rodinu", Mr. Svetloff was informed that its publication may be resumed on October 16, 1938 on condition that no articles of an objectionable nature be published. It was explained to him that the Police are strictly neutral in their attitude towards various political factions of local Russian community and will take drastic steps in respect of any paper persisting in publishing matter likely to adversely affect public peace and order.

In reply Mr. Svetloff said that he now understood the attitude of the Police and would conform with their request.

A. Prokofiev

D. S. I.

FILE
23.10.
P. A. to D. C. (Special Branch)

Union of Repatriation to USSR.

СССР. ВОЗВРАЩЕНЦЕВ
В ШАНХАЕ

№ _____

29 September 1938 r.

The Deputy Commissioner
Shanghai Municipal Police.
Present.

Dear Sir:

According to your oral statement regarding the opening of our club and the paper, the question regarding both is to be reconsidered on the 1st of October i.e. after the full expiration of a monthly repression period that had been imposed on us.

We hereby kindly request you to lift the ban and issue your permit for further functioning of our club and the publication.

We deeply trust that you shall gratify our request thus making it possible for us to resume from 1st October our peaceful work of study of our country U.S.S.R.

During the year of club's existence the latter had proved before the public community of Shanghai to be without reproach and there had never been a case that could cast a shadow on the existing organization.

Regarding our publication "Na Rodinu" (To Fatherland), we shall endeavour not to repeat any of the mistakes that have been previously done.

Dear Sir

I beg to remain

Yours Faithfully

N. Svetlov.

/Chairman/

Union of Repatriation to U.S.S.R. (Shanghai).

СОЮЗ ВОЗВРАЩЕНЦЕВ
В ШАНХАЕ 38659

№ 841

„27“ September 1938 r.

The Deputy Commissioner
Shanghai Municipal Police.
Present.

Dear Sir:

We beg to draw your esteemed attention to the fact that the temporary suspension of Union of Returners to U.S.S.R. is terminating on 30th inst. and as you have kindly promised, this temporary repressive measure shall be lifted as from 1st October.

We shall be also greatly obliged to know the fate of our publication "N. Rodinu" (To Fatherland).

We hereby trust that according to your promises you shall issue orders of lifting the repressive measures on our organization so that from 1st of October we could renew our internal cultural-educational work of study of our fatherland - U.S.S.R.

Dear Sir

I beg to remain

Yours Faithfully

N. Svetlov.

/Chairman/.

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This application is
not worded correctly.
The decision was that
the question of resumption
of Club & paper would
be re-considered on Oct 1.
There was no promise that they
would be allowed to resume
on that date

HR

SHANGHAI TIMES,

SEP 7 1938

SOVIET ORGANS HERE SAID DISSOLVED

Matter Is Sequel To Use Of Defamatory Terms In Periodical

It was reported here yesterday that both the local Soviet Society for the Repatriation of Emigres to the U.S.S.R. and the organization's official weekly publication had been dissolved by the Settlement police.

The reports, which allege that the police action was the result of defamatory articles used in the publication against certain members of the Russian Imperial Household, could not, however, be confirmed in official quarters last evening.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. E. REGISTRY

Special Branch No. S. B. D. 1004

REPORT

Date September 16, 1938.

Subject. Article in the "Evening Zaria" of 7-9-38 and 8-9-38 concerning
the "Repatriation Union" - editor interviewed.

Made by _____ and _____ Forwarded by C.D.I. Ross

Mr. K. A. Lobacheff, editor of the newspaper "Evening Zaria" was interviewed at headquarters on September 12, 1938. He was informed that articles of this type are highly undesirable from a police point of view as they tend to create ill feeling among certain sections of the foreign community. It was explained to him that the attitude of the Municipal Police towards "White Russians" and Soviet citizens is strictly neutral and that drastic steps will be taken in respect to newspapers persisting in publishing objectionable matter, irrespective of the political affiliations of the paper concerned.

Mr. Lobacheff stated that he would bear in mind the instructions of the Police.

SB Ross FILE

C. D. I.

D. C. (Special Branch)



Translation from the "Evening Zaria"
dated 8-9-38.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 8564
Date 11 9 38

II.

Nicolas SVINYIN is the son of a military engineer who, prior to the revolution in Russia was in charge of a radio station located on the Russian Island, Vladivostok. Following the advent of the bolshevik regime Svinyin-senior at once went over to them. At present he is still in the USSR where, it is reported, he holds a responsible post in the state's service.

Svinyin-junior, who at the time of the civil war in Russia happened to be in China, at first called himself a nationalist and irreconcilable anti-communist. Then he commenced his journalistic activities and in his verses often ridiculed the Soviet regime and Stalin. In justice to him it should be mentioned that he did it in a very successful manner.

He first started his political activities in 1936 when, still being disguised as a nationalist and anti-communist, he joined the staff of the now non-existent daily newspaper "NOVY PUT", which was formerly published by the Vladorossy Union, but at that time was already privately owned. In this paper Svinyin worked together with Nicolas ~~PETERETZ~~ and N. ~~SCHEGOLEFF~~, a poet, both of whom subsequently went over to the bolsheviks.

In the Easter issue of the "Novy Put" for 1938 appeared a story contributed by Svinyin, in which the latter predicted, inter alia, the overthrow of Stalin's regime by Marshal Tuhachevsky and the restoration of national government in Russia. Following the closure of the "Novy Put", Svinyin started publication of his own paper entitled "Crooked Mirror", in which, still pretending to be an emigrant and anti-communist, he began an obviously provocative campaign. He systematically attacked leading members of local emigrant

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organizations generally and Mr. Ch.E. Metzler, Chairman of the Russian Emigrants' Committee, in particular. Against the latter he put forward most fantastic charges. All this was calculated to bring dissension in the life of Russian community, however, there is an end to one's patience. Mr. Metzler filed a libel action against Svinyin. In court the latter also made an attempt to "denounce" the Representative of Russian community, but without success. The "Crooked Mirror" was closed down and Svinyin, having carried out instructions of the party under the guise of an emigrant and nationalist, threw off his mask, openly went over to the bolsheviks and joined the "Repatriation Union".

How much credit was given him for his work, may be judged by the fact that soon afterwards he was appointed chairman of the Union. His associates and collaborators in the Union were: - 1) Pomicheff-Sungensky, an individual very well known to the criminal police in Harbin, the murderer of priest Demidoff's wife, and the author of a series of dirty pamphlets in which he insulted the late Emperor Nicolas II and his family. 2) A.S. Makeyeff, former junior coesack-officer, author of a book entitled "Baron Ungern-God of War".

As soon as the "Repatriation Union" started publication of their weekly paper "Na Rodinu", Nicolae Svinyin was appointed its responsible editor. It was on this post that he has shown his true face. He started a mud-slinging campaign against all that is dear to the heart of every true Russian and published articles attacking in a libellous and provocative manner leading members of emigrant organizations and all those who still remained irreconcilable enemies of the bolsheviks and their associates.

On August 25 when the whole Russian Shanghai and local German community were making arrangements for the welcoming of Prince and Princess Louis Ferdinand of Prussia, the

"Repatriation Union" issued No.19 of their paper, in which the "responsible" editor Svinyin and his associates ridiculed in a most objectionable manner not only the newly-wed royal couple, but also the Romanoff and Hohenzollern dynasties.

In the issue Svinyin, hidden under his old pen-name "SHEMEL", under which he ridiculed Stalin not long ago, published his verses entitled "Topics of the day", in which he referred to the person of Grand Duchess Kyra in an insulting manner. This issue No.19 of the bolshevist paper aroused strong indignation in local Russian community.

The Settlement authorities have suspended publication of this libellous paper for one month. As regards the club of the "Repatriation Union", it has been ascertained to-day that it still functions.

Svinyin's "activities" not infrequently resulted in his name being mentioned in the press. Recently he figured in a police report in connection with a mysterious shooting which took place during the course of a drinking party arranged by members of the "Repatriation Union" in the house of Kazilidis, captain of the well known Greek steamer "Ano-Vathy".

In the present note only common knowledge facts are mentioned relating to the doubtful activities of the "Repatriation Union" and their mud-slinging chairman Svinyin. There are, of course, "many things which our wise men have not seen even in their dreams". But even the above mentioned facts, which are registered in the press and in the police annals, are sufficient to enable one to form a definite opinion on the "Repatriation Union" (quotation marks - an absolute necessity) and on the "bright" personality of Svinyin.

All these facts should be borne in mind in connection

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with the recent incident in which Svinyin and Mr. Korganoff, artist were involved. Korganoff evidently knew something unprintable about Svinyin and had sufficient reasons for applying to Svinyin the only method of "persuasion" he can understand.

Что такое „Союз Возвращенцев” и кто такой Н. Свинын -- „Свѣтлов”.

(Начало во вчерашн. номере)

Николас Свинын является сыном военного инженера, заведывавшего радио-станцией на Русском Острове во Владивостоке до революции. Когда к власти пришли большевики, отец Свинына сразу же перешел к ним на службу. В настоящее время он до сих пор находится в СССР, где, занимая ответственный пост на государственной службе.

Сам Николай Свинын случайно оказавшийся во время гражданской войны в Китае, первое время называл себя националистом и непримиримым врагом большевиков. Он стал работать на литературном приходе. В своих стихах и частушках он часто высмеивал советский режим и Сталина, и справедливость требует отметить, делал это весьма удачно.

На политическом арте он выступил впервые в 1936 го-

ду, когда все еще прикрывался личиной националиста и анти-коммуниста, вступил в штат сотрудников нинь не существующей бывшей младоросской ежедневной газеты «Новый Путь», которая тогда уже находилась в частных руках. В этой газете Свиныну пришлось работать вместе с Николаем Петером, впоследствии перешедшим к большевикам и с поэтом Н. Щеголевым, который также вскоре перебежал к красным.

В пасхальном номере «Нового Пути» за 1936 год, Свинын написал большой рассказ, в котором, между прочим, предсказывал свержение сталинского режима маршалом М. Тухачевским и восстановле-

ние Свинына, можно судить по тому, что вскоре же он был назначен председателем союза. Его ближайшими помощниками и сотрудниками оказались прекрасно известный уголовному розыску Харбин, убийца жены протоиерея о. Демидова, Фомичев-Сунженский написавший, в свое время, целый ряд пасквильных брошюр, в которых подверг оскорблению покойного Императора Николая II-го и его семью, а также быв. есаул А. С. Махотин, автор книги «Бог войны — Барон Унгерн».

Как только «Союз Возвращенцев» приступил к изданию еженедельной листовки «На Родину», Николай Свинын был назначен ответственным редак-

тором. Сталиным, написал пасквильные частушки «На злобу дня», в которых в оскорбительной форме насался личности Е. И. В. Великой Княгини Кирилы Кирилловны. Этот 19-й номер большевистской листовки вызвал сильное возмущение среди русской колонии города.

Власти Сеттлмента закрыли на месяц это пасквильное издание. Что касается клуба «Союз Возвращенцев», то он, как выяснилось сегодня, еще не закрыт.

«Детальность» Свинына нередко приводила к тому, что он попадал на страницы печати. Но так давно Свинын фигурировал в полицейском протоколе, в связи с загадочной стрельбой во время пьяной пи-

прохладных
оно выны
меня
фн
СССР.

и много размышляла партия. на этой же день передала...
...и много размышляла партия. на этой же день передала...
...и много размышляла партия. на этой же день передала...

ПЕКИН, 8 (Рейтер). Связи...
...и много размышляла партия. на этой же день передала...
...и много размышляла партия. на этой же день передала...

федерации китайских...
...и много размышляла партия. на этой же день передала...
...и много размышляла партия. на этой же день передала...

The Union of Repatriation to USSR

СОЮЗ ВОЗВРАЩЕНЦЕВ

В ШАНХАЕ

105 Love Lane

No

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

S. B. REGISTRY

No. S. B. D.

9 September 1938 r.

The Deputy Commissioner
of Shanghai Municipal Police.

Dear Sir,

I beg to draw your esteemed attention to the fact that "Shanghai Zaria" in her evening edition had recently inserted series of slandering allegation, baseless and devoid of truth regarding the nature of our existing organization and myself in general. Provocative statements had been inserted in the evening editions of 7-th and 8-th inst. of the above publication used in order to arouse the public opinion and agitate the ignorant part of the readers.

On the 7-th inst. "Zaria" had announced the closing of our club and "in the course of further "revelations" the next day she denied the news, thus stupefying an already dumbfounded readers.

"Zaria" openly alleged that we were connected with Paris Union of Returners giving a few statements that could be easily refuted. No connection whatsoever with a similar Paris organization had ever existed. It is further untrue that Paris Union had not yet repatriated but a single group of emigrants in USSR.

Further "the Youth Group" ("Otmol") and "women section" ("jenotdel") never appear to be "communist organizations" so profoundly stressed by "Zaria", but merely groups of youth and women conducting a cultural work.

Again regarding my descent "Zaria" alleged most improbable statements that could be called nothing more but invention: - my father had never been a military engineer and

never held any important state office in USSR. The statements are absurd. My father was an inspector of fisheries in Nikolaevsk (Amur region) and had been killed by a Japanese bullet in 1920.

Regarding my "fantastical accusations" against K.E. Metzler, pointed by "Zaria" the said statement appears to be baseless. Inasmuch as the French police had closed my paper the "Crooked Mirror", yet the court rejected the charge of diffamation. In the conclusion of the above article which is full of false statements, which I omit in order not to intrude, "The Evening Zaria" mentioned regarding the assault of terrorist Karganoff and approving this outrage and attack from behind stressed that "this could be the only ample and reasonable way of talking with me".

This indicates that "Zaria" openly favours terrorist actions, openly proclaiming to act likewise to the shady and irresponsible elements, also speaking of "some special problems" that stand in the course of our work. This falls nothing short of open agitation!

I beg to give your esteemed attention to the above facts and defend us from further slander of "Zaria" and its articles, the unfounded statements devoid of truth, entirely groundless and absurd.

Our aim and immediate goal is nothing but repatriation from China to our Fatherland which may be illustrated by the real and true character of our work.

I beg to remain

Your faithfully

N. Svetlov
Chairman.

Memorandum.To P. A. Shanghai,MUNICIPAL POLICE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

M. S. B. D. REGISTRY

Highly undesirable.
 Please request Zana
 to stop this series
immediately. It is
 simply picking the bones
 of an enemy, not being
 content with his death.
 It looks as if other
 papers are seeking for
 what defile na Lodine.

J. H. Robertson
 9/9.

translation from Russian newspaper "Evening Zaria" dated 7-9-38. Published by U.V. Lembich Publishing Co., 774 Avenue Joffre. Editor - Mr. K.M. Lobacheff.

WHAT IS THE "REPATRIATION UNION"
and
who is M. Svinin "Svetloff".

The Municipal Police issued orders for the closure of the club of the "Repatriation Union", 105 Love Lane, as well as of the weekly paper "Na Rodinu" published by the Union.

In this connection it is of interest to review certain data relating to the "activities" of this Soviet institution which has been existing in Shanghai for quite a long time already.

What is the "Repatriation Union"? What are its aims? What is the real nature of its activities? So far these questions have not been fully discussed in the press.

Although the very name of the "Repatriation Union" seems to suggest that it pursues a definite aim, namely: to facilitate repatriation to the "communist paradise", all its members apparently prefer to remain in the "capitalist hell". The whole activities of the Union in Paris, as well as in other centres where Russian emigrants reside, tend to indicate that the Union is pursuing entirely different aims. So far the "Repatriation Union" in Paris and in Shanghai have not sent a single group of emigrants to the U.S.S.R.

If this is so, then what is the *raison d'etre* of the Union and why is it financially supported by the Soviet Consulate? Because the "Repatriation Union" is necessary for bringing dissension in the ranks of emigrants and for carrying out various tasks on behalf of their red masters.

In Paris, where the Headquarters of the Union are located, it has for many years been in closest contact with the Soviet Embassy. Members of the Union have long been suspected by the authorities of being concerned in a series of sensational crimes committed in France as well as in other European countries. This was duly reported in the press. Rumours accused the Union with

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being concerned in the kidnapping of General M.K. Miller and the "liquidation" of Soviet journalist D. Navashin.

In the beginning of September, 1937, exactly one year ago, a certain Ignatius REIS, ex-agent of the G.P.U. and ex-member of the Russian Communist Party, was murdered near Lausanne, Switzerland. Investigations carried out by the Swiss and French authorities definitely established the fact of participation of several members of the "Repatriation Union" in Paris in this sensational political murder. It was ascertained that among the principal organizers of this murder were leaders of the "Repatriation Union" - a certain S. Ya. EFRON, LARIN (Secretary) and his assistant Peter SHVARZENBERG, who worked in a close contact with the foreign section of the G.P.U. and the Soviet Embassy.

Those who applied to the Union with a request to repatriate them to the U.S.S.R., were told that for this purpose it was necessary to comply with two conditions: "honesty and seriousness of intentions". It was then suggested to the applicants ^{that they should} ~~to~~ undergo a series of "tests" by carrying out certain dangerous tasks of a political character.

Thus, for instance, several members of the Union recruited by S. Ya. EFRON for the G.P.U. kept an observation on L. SEDOFF (the son of L. TROTSKY) who subsequently died under mysterious circumstances; were employed for overhearing A. F. KORNENSKY's telephone conversations; shadowed Ignatius REIS etc.

Acting in cooperation with the Swiss Police, the French authorities carried out a series of searches in the premises of the "Repatriation Union" in Paris and interrogated many members of the Union including LARIN, TVERITINOFF, BELOUSOFF, KOVALEFF, ROOJIN, PITOOK, CHISTOGANOFF (nicknamed "Ochkasty") and others. The principal inspirers of these crimes - EFRON and the KLEPIN couple, however, have managed to make good their escape.

From the above facts it is quite clear that the "Repatriation Union" has been pursuing aims which are entirely different from the professed aim of "facilitating the repatriation of Russian

emigrants to the U.S.S.R."

As stated above, the "Repatriation Union" in Shanghai who until recently had their own club and weekly paper, have not repatriated anybody during the whole period of the existence of the Union.. In the meantime, the leaders of the Union have been concentrating their efforts on ^{the} recruiting of members from the Russian community, mostly among the younger generation.. Every week meetings and "lectures" were held in the club of the Union during the course of which Soviet newspapers were read and other specially selected "material" presented to the attention of the audience.. Meetings of the "Youth Section", "Women Section" and other communist organizations comprising the Union, took place at the same address.

The chairman of the "Repatriation Union" in Shanghai, and responsible editor of the now suppressed paper "Na Rodinu" is a certain Nicolas SVINYIN, hiding under a more euphonious name of "SVETLOFF".

M.N.N.

(to be continued)

И КТО ТАКОЙ Н. СВИНЬИН -- „СВѢТЛОВ“.

7/9 Ben 3 pr

TM.

Хотя само название «Союз Возвращенцев» говорит, казалось бы об определенной цели возврата в «коммунистический рай», все члены его как будто предпочитают сидеть в «капиталистическом болоте». Вся деятельность этого союза, как в Париже, так и в других центрах русского эмигрантского разбегания, показывает.

Но для чего же он существует и почему советское государство поддерживает его материально? Потому что «Союз Возвращенцев» необходим для разложения эмиграции и выполнения самых разнообразных поручений своих красных хозяев.

Наконец, ровно год тому назад, в начале сентября 1937 года, в Швейцарии, около Лозанны, был убит бывший агент ГПУ и член ВКП(б) Игнат Рейс. Расследование, произведенное швейцарскими и французскими властями, на этот

Ты кто обращался в «Союз Возвращенцев» с просьбой отправить их в Россию говорили там, что для возвращения в СССР требуются два условия: «честность и серьезность», после чего предлагалось подвергнуться ряду «испытаний», ввиде опасных поручений политического характера.

Французскія власти, работавшія въ тѣсномъ контактѣ съ швейцарскою полиціей, произвели рядъ обысковъ въ парижскомъ «Союзѣ Возвращенцевъ» и доставили многихъ возвращенцевъ, включая Ларина, Тверитинова, Бѣлоусова, Козалева, Ружина, Питука, Чистоганова (по прозвищу «Обчакны») и другихъ. Главнымъ вдохновителемъ преступленій, Эфрону и супругамъ Клепнымъ, тогда все-же удалось своевременио скрыться и избѣжать ареста.

Из всех перечисленных фактов совершенно ясно, что

Председателем шанхайского «Союза Возвращенцев» и ответственным редактором закрытой ныне газеты «На Родину» является небезызвестный Николай Свинын, укрывшийся под более благозвучной фамилией «Светлова».

Н. Н. Н.
(Продолж. в завтраш. номерѣ)

Невеста ушла было
не „просная“
женка.
Од очинскаго купца въ
мѣсто ея привезъ изъ
— востановка

«Самое Развращающее»

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

S. B. REGISTRY

Special No. *8564*

REPORT

September 12, 1938

Subject Article in newspaper "Slovo" of 8-9-38 concerning the

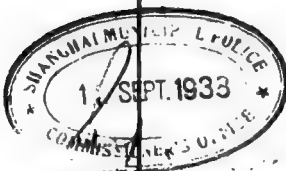
"Repatriation Union" - editor interviewed.

Made by and Forwarded by C.D.I. Ross

In accordance with the instructions of D. C. (Special Branch) Mr. V. Prisiajnikoff, editor of the Russian newspaper "Slovo", was interviewed at headquarters on September 10. He was informed that the Police disapproved of the article in question and was warned to refrain in future from publishing matter of a similar nature.

In reply Mr. Prisiajnikoff said that the "Slovo" has been existing in Shanghai for over ten years during which period it had no trouble with the Police Authorities. In his opinion this proves that "mud-slinging" does not form a part of the policy of his newspaper. He further pointed out that "Slovo" had disregarded even such vulgar insults as those which had been hurled at this newspaper and the person of its editor by the "Novosti Dnia" of September 6 (vide attached translation).

Mr. Prisiajnikoff promised to comply with the request of the Police.



P. C. (Special Branch)

FILE

C. p. I.

Common

*See
Information. The
article refers to the paper
& Union suppressed by
the Police - sufficient
punishment without Slovo
trying to pick the bones of
a dead enemy*

The Robertson

DC 51

Memorandum.POLICE FORCE,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.To Shanghai, P. A. 9.9.38 193.

Please arrange to have this paper warned against publishing garbage of this sort. It is evidently a tract of Russian newspapers to go in for cheap mud throwing and in this I do not appear to be an exception. I am prepared to take prompt & drastic steps if my warning goes unheeded. H. 2.

translation from Russian newspaper "Slovo" dated 8-9-38.
Published and edited by Mr. I.M. Altadukoff, 238 Avenue du
Roi Albert. Mr. V.S. Prisiajnikoff- in charge of Editorial
Office.

DISHONOURABLE END

The local English newspaper "Shanghai Times" in
its issue dated 7-9-38 reports that the Municipal Police have
ordered suspension of activities of the much talked about
"Repatriation Union". The weekly paper entitled "NA RODINU"
published by this organization has also been suspended by the
Police authorities.

The "Repatriation Union" was established in Shang-
hai two years ago by a group of young men, the majority of whom
had no fixed employment here or had compromised themselves by
various scandals and improper behaviour.

The head of the Union is a certain Nicolas Svinyin-
Svetloff- an undistinguished individual possessing an abnormal
vanity and ambitious of becoming a "leader".

His entire entourage in the "Repatriation Union" was
also comprised of persons who do not excel in anything particu-
lar and who followed the example set up by one of the prominent
members of the Union in their search for "sandwiches" (x).

Despite the fact that the "Repatriation Union" in
Shanghai has been existing for quite a long time, only very few
people actually returned to the U.S.S.R. Moreover, the majori-
ty of these people did so without any assistance on the part
of the "Repatriation Union" and for reasons which are entirely
different from those put forward by the "Repatriation Union"
and its "leaders" with Mr. Svinyin at the head.

Translator's note (x): Russian idiom meaning "subsidy".

A. P. Kopin
.....
D.S.I.

2CSB.
882
899.

Безславный конец.

Власти Сетльмента прекратили деятельность „Союза“ возвращенцев.

Во вчерашнем номере мѣстной англійской газеты «Шанхай Таймс» помѣщено сообщеніе о том, что полицейскія власти Сетльмента отдали распоряженіе о прекращеніи на территоріи Сетльмента деятельности пресловутаго «Союза» возвращенцев.

Полицейскія власти также прекратили изданіе на территоріи Сетльмента еженедѣльнаго органа этой организаціи «На подиуну».

«Союз возвращенцев» был основан в Шанхаѣ годѣ два тому назад группой молодых людей, в большинствѣ

случаев, не имѣвших здѣсь опредѣленных занятій или скомпрометировавших себя разнаго рода скандалами и неблаговидными поступками.

В главѣ союза встал безызвѣстный Николай Свиныин (Святлов), который представляет собой безвѣстную личность, но с болѣзненным тщеславіем и погугами на вождям.

Все окруженіе Свиныина по руководству «Союзом» возвращенцев также состояло из людей не обладающих особыми талантами и по-

шедших по примѣру одного из наиболее матерых возвращенцев в погонѣ за бутербродами.

Несмотря на то, что «Союз возвращенцев» пресуществовал в Шанхаѣ довольно продолжительное время, дѣйствительно возвратились в СССР из Шанхая очень немногіе, да и то в большинствѣ случаев без содѣйствія «Союза» возвращенцев и совершена по другим обстоятельствам, нежели тѣ, которыми выдвигал для репатріаціи пресловутый «союз» и «вожди» во главѣ со Свиныиным.

Translation of extracts from MAX ARSKY's letter to the Editor of the "NOVOSTI DNIA" dated 6-9-38. Editor - Mr. V.A. Chilikin. 630 Avenue Park.

In a letter to the Editor of the "Novosti Dnia" Max ARSKY, who just has been released from gaol after serving 50 days imprisonment for larceny, gives way to his feeling of depression and bitterness over lack of sympathy and understanding displayed by the general public in connection with his case. He maintains that he is prevented from earning his living by working in his professional capacity, against which unfair and callous attitude he protested by committing the larceny in question. He also expresses his gratitude to the Editor of the "Novosti Dnia" for the latter's impartial attitude towards his case and for pointing out the nature of his protest.

The writer then proceeds with a violent outburst directed against newspaper "Slove" and its editor, a translation of which reads as follows:-

"Your humane attitude towards me may be better understood if compared with the attitude of the dumb "Slove" which kicked at me on that occasion with its ,fortunately unshod, hoofs of a crippled old gelding.

This ,probably, came in a way of gratitude for that I had saved this paper once from your accusations which, as I understand now, were fully justified.

At that time those tapsters rushed to me for help:
"Save us! We are perishing!"

And I saved them!

But then at least an educated person was at the head of this "beauty". Now, however, it is run by a sluggard who cannot even stand on his own feet and therefore remains seated not even at the head, but literally on the head of this grotesque fish, newspaper. This is why this paper stinks from its head, as a fish does. It stinks very badly. It stinks because of its own decomposition and because of the absurd position of the in-

dividual, who not only has no experience as an editor, but, judging by his "literary" works, is also a spiritual and moral wreck.?"..

" As to my new "activities", it remains now, in order to have a decent appearance, to acquire an under-skirt in addition to the ladies' garment I already have. I shall be fully dressed then, and the rest will be given to me by those who so generously gave me 50 days.

Then "Slovo" will be able to devote a whole leading article to this subject a propos the under skirt. They are more familiar with under skirts, than with subjects relating to more lofty sentiments of human soul.?"....

MAX ARSKY

September 4, 1938.

Translator's note: It appears that Max Arsky has now become one of the collaborators of V. Chilikin's "Nevosti Dnia". It will be recalled that verses contributed by this individual were the immediate cause of the suspension of of the "Nevosti Dnia" in September, 1937.

.....

D.S.I.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTER
Section 1, Special Branch R. *10/9/38*

Section 1, Special Branch R. *10/9/38*

REPORT

Date: September 10, 1938

Subject (in full) Communication dated 9-9-38 from the local group of Russian Monarchists-Legitimists concerning newspaper "Na Rodinu".

Made by D. S. I. Prokofiev

Forwarded by *C. Gansel*

I forward herewith together with a translation the attached papers which were handed to me on 9-9-38 by Mr. Uvaroff, member of the local group of Monarchists-Legitimists. Lieut.-General Isakoff, head of the group in question, represents in China Grand Duke Cyril Vladimirovich, who is recognized by this faction of Russian monarchists as the Emperor of Russia by right of succession.

A. Prokofiev

D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

FILE

*Rather belated
as what he asks for
has already been done*

for

Translation from Russian.

Chancellor
of
His Majesty's Representative in China.

September 9, 1938

No 52

Shanghai.

To Political Department,
Shanghai Municipal Police.

In accordance with instructions of His Majesty's
Representative in China, I forward herewith Colonel Nikolaeff's
report endorsed by H.M. Representative.

(Signed) Captain Uvaroff

Enclosures: Report No 38 and one copy of newspaper "Na Rodinu".

Translation from Russian.

Colonel N.N. Nikolaeff

September 4, 1938

No 138

Shanghai.

To H.M. Representative in China.

REPORT

Forwarding herewith one copy of the newspaper "Na Rodinu" dated 25-8-38 I beg to request that steps be taken through the Police with a view to putting an end to the disgusting hooliganism of N.F. Svinyin (Svetloff), editor of the said paper, who attacks the Romanoff Dynasty.

I also beg to request to bring to the notice of the Police that this campaign against members of the Dynasty, if carried on with impunity, may lead to an open attack of the offices of this revolting paper by the more fiery elements of Russian monarchists in Shanghai.

Enclosure: newspaper No 19.

(Signed) Colonel Nikolaeff.

(Endorsement): "Forward to the Political Department of the Shanghai Municipal Police".

(Signed) Lieut.-General Isakoff.

Reg.No 604-IX-38
B/IX/38



Награжденный Императором
УПОЛНОМОЧЕННЫМ

ЕГО ИМПЕРАТОРСКАГО ВЕЛИЧЕСТВА

"9" ^{в Китае} Октября 1938 г.

№ 524

г. Шанхай.

Генерал-майор

Полковник

Степанович.

Александрович, за отличие по службе
в должности полковника в 1938 г.
в Китае, доблестно и мужественно
выполнив боевые задачи, проявив
мужество.

Награжден 9 Октября 1938 г.

За отличие "на фронте".

Шанхай-Кантон? 1938 г.

ПОЛКОВНИКЪ
НИКОЛАЙ НИКОЛАЕВИЧЪ
НИКОЛАЕВЪ

И полномулю
Е. И. В. въ Китай.

4 Сент. 1938 г.

№...

г. Шанхай

Президиумъ Коммунистическаго
Органа Полиции Международнаго
Съезда въ Шангае
Генералъ Леу
Вх. № 60. 8/15-1938
4/15/38г.

Родомъ изъ, при севъ.
экз. газетъ „На Роду-
“ отъ 25 авг. с.г. за № 19,
прошу о принятіи рѣши-
тельныхъ мѣръ, гдѣ по-
лицію, о прекращеніи бе-
зобразныхъ и думганскихъ
выпадовъ со стороны редак-
тора названной газетъ
Н. Ф. Свинкина (Святлова)
противъ Анастасіи Роми-
новыхъ, а также о пре-
дупрежденіи полиціи,
что безнаказанная травля

Генералъ

Высочайшихъ Особъ, можетъ
повлечь открытое нападение
на редакцію этой возмущи-
тельной газетки со стороны
наиболее горячей части Шах-
скихъ Монархистовъ.

Приложение: Газета № 19.

П. Токковникъ Николай

SEP 5 1938

Russian Repatriation Union And Paper Suspended Here

Municipal Police Issue Order Banning Publication Of
"Na Rodinu" Owing To Recent Article Attacking
Romanoffs; Likely To Have Caused Trouble

Regarded by the Shanghai Municipal Police as an abuse of asylum and privileges accorded after its compulsory removal from the French Concession, the Russian-language newspaper "Na Rodinu" ("Back to the Fatherland"), published in the International Settlement under the auspices of the Repatriation Union of Shanghai, has been indefinitely suspended and the sponsoring organization has also been ordered to disband for an indefinite period. This decision was communicated to the publishers by the S.M.P. with a warning that any further abuse of privileges would lead to even more serious consequences.

This decision will mean that the paper and the organization which is pro-Soviet in character will be inactive during the forthcoming visit here of Prince Louis Ferdinand, grandson of the ex-Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany and his bride, the former Grand Duchess Kira of the Russian House of Romanoff, who are expected to visit the city of a few days, reaching here on Monday.

The decision of the S.M.P. to suspend publication of "Na Rodinu" was reached following the publication of an article in the paper in which the House of Romanoff was attacked. The article was timed to appear on the day of arrival of Prince Ferdinand and his Russian bride and was regarded as likely to stir up the ire of the local White Russian community. The arrival of the distinguished couple was postponed, however, but the article appeared and brought down the wrath of the police on the heads of the

publishers.

Past records show that this is not the first time the paper in question has incurred official disfavour. The organization of which it is purported to be the official mouthpiece is known as the Repatriation Union of Shanghai and is said to number some 200 members. Its avowed objects, according to official sources, are the repatriation of Russians who desire to return to Soviet territory and the fostering of a pro-Soviet spirit among local Russians.

Became Political

When first established and with headquarters in the French Concession it attracted little attention, but subsequently identified itself in active political affairs, frequently coming into conflict with White Russian elements opposed to the Soviet. Finally it was given orders to disband in the French Concession and moved into the International Settlement, with headquarters at 103 Love Lane, where some time ago it was the recipient of a bomb.

Frequent disputes with Russian "Fascists" once again brought its members into the official limelight and only last Monday one of its leading lights came into conflict with a member of the "Fascists," arising out of which a charge of assault has been preferred.

But the police decided they had enough to do without attending to factional disputes between Russian organizations, and possible disorders arising out of quarrelsome articles published in the "Na Rodinu," and decided to close both the paper and the Repatriation Union.

FILE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Section 1, Special Branch *1844/38*

REPORT

Date *September 1, 1938*

Subject Letter dated 1-9-38 from Chairman of the "Repatriation Union at Shanghai" expressing regrets for publishing an objectionable article in their paper "Na Rodinu" of 22-8-38.

Made by *D.S.I. Prokofiev.* Forwarded by *W. Logan D.S.I.*

At about 10 a.m. on 1-9-38 Mr. N.F. Svinyin-Svetloff, responsible representative of the newspaper "Na Rodinu" and Chairman of the "Repatriation Union at Shanghai" called at this office and requested an interview with the D.C. (Special Branch). He explained that he brought a letter addressed to the Commissioner of Police containing a request to reconsider the action taken by the police against his newspaper and organization. As he has failed to return to the Police, certificates of registration issued in respect of the said newspaper and organization, he was informed that no appeal would be considered by the Police before the instructions of the Police are fully complied with.

At 11.30 a.m. on the same date he brought the certificates required which, together with the letter addressed to the Commissioner of Police, are forwarded hewith.

W. Prokofiev
D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

D.S.I. Prokofiev
W
2/9

Mrs. Svetloff informed.
5/9. N.P.

S1
The Police order in the matter of suspension of this paper and Society will hold good until Sept 30 when application for resumption will be considered
The Robertson
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

8. Feb :-
D8157-F2, F15,
D8149. F6.

28/9

Union of Repatriation

СОЮЗ ВОЗВРАЩЕНЦЕВ
В ШАНХАЕ

№ 746

„ 1 “ August 1938 r.

To the Chief of the Police

Sir,
We fully realize our serious mistake that we were not up to our promise not to offend in our paper pro-monarchical feelings of some White Russians. It is, doubtless, our tactical mistake, and we are very sorry of it.

450 members of the Union of Repatriation are united in Shanghai in order to strengthen the chances of our return home — to USSR. Our peaceful work consist in raising cultural level of our members and to inform them of the genuine state of affairs in ~~our~~ country. We have been engaged in this work during the year of our existence.

All this period the S.M.P. could not have complained that in our club or around there were some scandals or scuffles. Our work proceeds exclusively peaceful aims.

However, every now and then we, ~~volens-nolens~~, were forced to reveal to our members the flood of lies which some White Russians are erupting on our country. In connection with this we sometimes were obliged to treat some emigrants' problem.

We admit that our views are not liked by White Russians, but they are made public only among our members, as our paper is circulated among our members.

ЮЗ ВОЗВРАЩЕНЦЕВ
В ШАНХАЕ

№

“

193 г.

Nevertheless if the police finds that such articles, as were published in our paper are undesirable, we promise you not to publish the like.

Bringing, herewith, our sincere excuses and regrets about our mistake, we hope, Mr Chief of the Police, that you will be indulgent to us and cancel your order of reprisals against our paper and organization.

Yours very truly, -

N. Svetlov.

Chairman of Union
of Repatriation to



Commissioner.

Sir,

Reference attached file, this paper was warned on a previous occasion against publishing matter likely to react to the detriment of peace and order. Despite this, it saw fit to publish in its issue of August 25 an article attacking the Romanoff family and likely to arouse the ire of the "White" Russian community, especially as the date of the appearance of the article coincided with the expected arrival in Shanghai of Prince Louis Ferdinand and his wife, former Grand Duchess Kyra of Russia, whose visit, however, has been postponed to allow them a trip to Manchoukuo.

See

When called to Police Headquarters today, Mr. N.F. Svinyin-Svetloff, responsible representative of the newspaper "Na Rodinu", was informed that the Police took a serious view of the article and giving consideration to the fact that this was not the first offence, the paper would be suspended indefinitely and the "Repatriation Union", the organ sponsoring it, would be required to suspend its activities until September 30. It was pointed out to Mr. Svinyin-Svetloff that despite the refusal of the French Police to tolerate in their Concession the presence of the "Repatriation Union" and the newspaper "Na Rodinu", the Municipal Police had permitted asylum in the Settlement to both. This concession, instead of being appreciated, had been grossly abused through the columns of the paper on at least two occasions and consequently the police had no alternative but to act as they did.

Mr. Svinyin-Svetloff here suggested discrimination on the part of the Municipal Police in favour of the

-2-

"White" and "Fascist" elements claiming that they through the columns of the newspapers "Shanghai Zaria", "Slovo" and "Russian Vanguard" not infrequently made attacks on Stalin and the Soviet Union. He was informed that the Police were entirely neutral in the matter of Soviet and "Whites" and that similar action would be taken against any paper which persisted in publishing matters likely to adversely affect the peace of the Settlement.

John J. Johnston

D. C. (Special Branch)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

File No.

Section 1, Special Branch

S. B. REGISTRY

REPORT

No. S. B. D.

Date August 30, 1938

Subject (in full) Article in the newspaper "NA RODINU" containing insulting remarks regarding members of the Romanoff House - newspaper suspended.

Made by D.S.I. Prokofiev.

Forwarded by W. Lagan 251

On 29-8-38 Mr. N.F. Svinyin-Svetloff, responsible representative of the newspaper "NA RODINU", organ of the pro-Soviet organization known as the "Repatriation Union at Shanghai", was called to Police Headquarters. During the course of an interview with the D.C. (Special Branch) he was informed that his newspaper would be suspended indefinitely, while the "Repatriation Union" would be requested to suspend its activities until September 30 when the question of its further existence would be considered.

Mr. Svinyin-Svetloff was also requested to return the registration certificates issued by the Municipal Police in respect of the paper and organization mentioned above. He promised to comply with this request on the following day. However, at about 8 p.m. on 29-8-38 he rang up the undersigned at Carter Road Police Quarters and said that unless he received a written request to this effect, he would not return the certificates of registration. He explained that this was necessary for him in order to give to his colleagues an account of what had happened. He also intimated that "the press" had taken a great interest in this matter.

U. Prokofiev
D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

*This will
not help
his case*

*282
358*

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Section 1, Special Branch

REPORT

Date August 27, 1938

Subject Article in the newspaper "Na Rodinu" containing insulting remarks regarding members of the Romanoff House.

Made by D.S.I. Prokofiev.

Forwarded by

W. Egan 8.59

x 2812
In the issue dated 25-8-38 of the newspaper "Na Rodinu" published by the pro-Soviet organization known as the "Repatriation Union" appeared an article in the form of a humorous feuilleton, a translation of which reads as follows:-

HOLSTEIN, GRAFF & Co.

" Citizens, I would like to have a little chat about an export firm. The business is so profitable, you know. Especially at this time of a general depression.

Well, there lives in one of the European republics as a "person without nationality" the "most rightful by birth", the "most legitimate", excuse me, "tsar of all Russia", the "most pious", the "most autocratic" Cyril I.

He lives as tsars are supposed to live: he does not work because, as you know well, he has blue blood in his veins, and blue blood hates doing any work.

Cyril has a loyal knight, a German named Harald - a sort of a Livonian knight, who is a relation of Cyril because they are both of German origin. This German named Harald holds in the firm "Holstein, Graff & Co." a post similar to that of a quartermaster.

Well, once upon a time Harald came to Cyril and said in a sad voice:-

" Your majesty, some of our loyal subjects have been slow in making their contributions to the Tsar's treasury lately. Perhaps, you would please to issue some "manifest" for the purpose of waking the conscience of those who have tightened the strings of their purses. It also would not be a bad idea to bestow honours on certain individuals in order to liven up their

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

..... Station,

Date 19

Subject

-2-

Made by Forwarded by

spirits. Some of the generals are getting slack and this means a complete ruin to us!

' All right, I have nothing against your proposition' said Cyril. ' Give me that paper adorned with the imperial eagle. I'll do it in jiffy. I have done it before!

Swiftly, he wrote the manifest required, signed it with a flourish in the space provided for the purpose and said:-

' I say, Harald Karlovich. Supposing we award a medal to that colonel in Shanghai, the one with a big belly, eh? He has been doing his best to replenish the Tsar's treasury.. He literally squeezes money out of our subjects'..

' Yes ' drawled Harald dreamily. ' If every one were like him, what a fine life could we have...'

They issued manifests, bestowed honours, awarded medals and then waited..

The scheme proved to be very good: they bagged an enormous lot of money!

But time passes on. Harald again comes to the ' little father, the Tsar' and says in a sweet voice:-

' Do not order to punish me, but allow me to say a few words.. I have got another idea of how to get money from our loyal subjects, for a rainy day. I feel that this will be the last time, because our loyal subjects are running away from us in all directions'...

And he explained to Cyril a cunning scheme of his. Cyril liked it very much and immediately sent out to his representatives in all countries the following price-list:-

' Loyal subjects wishing to have, as a token of His Majes-

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

REPORT

.....Station,

Date19

Subject.....

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Made by.....Forwarded by.....

ty's favour', a First Class medal with St. Andrew's band adorned with a sacred initial "C", may be awarded this medal on payment of U.S.\$ 100 to 'His Majesty'. For Second Class medal \$ 50 must be paid, and for the Third Class medal we could settle at \$ 25. '

And - can you imagine! - it is said that there are many people who want the 'Emperor's favour', so that 'real American dollars' flow into the long pockets of the firm 'Holstein, Graff & Co.'

On page 2 of the same issue appear verses entitled "Topics of the Day", which contain a couple of remarks regarding the Grand Duchess Kyra. The verses defy translation, but their general tone and manner of referring to "Mrs Kyra Hohenzollern" are definitely insulting to the latter and to those who respect her as the niece of the late Emperor Nicolas II. In the same verses Adolf Hitler is referred to as a "miserable man who is worse than a bandit"....

It will be recalled that on 12-6-38 Mr. N.F. Svinyin-Svetloff, editor of the newspaper "Na Rodinu" and chairman of the "Repatriation Union" was called to Headquarters in connection with an article in his newspaper containing insulting remarks regarding the same members of the Romanoff house. He was informed that the police disapproved of the article in question and was warned to refrain in future from publishing articles likely to offend national and religious feelings of any section of the local foreign community. Although he argued that there was nothing objectionable in that article, he promised to comply with the request of the Police.

Mr. Svyniyn-Svetloff now gives a fine example of keeping a promise by deliberately repeating the same offence on the

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eve of the expected arrival in Shanghai of the Grand Duchess
Kyra, when preparations are under way in the local Russian com-
munity to welcome the distinguished visitor.

Remarks made in the report dated 10-6-38 submitted by
this section (flagged) fully apply to the present case.

A. Prokopiets.

D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

DBR.

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File No.

Special Branch ~~xxxxxx~~

REPORT

Date June 14 1938.

Subject N.F. Svinyin-Svetloff, editor of the newspaper "Na Rodinu",
interviewed.

Made by and Forwarded by C.D.I. Ross

Mr. N.F. Svinyin-Svetloff, editor of the pro-Soviet Russian newspaper entitled "Na Rodinu" ("Back to Fatherland"), was interviewed at headquarters on June 13. He was informed that the Police disapproved of the article entitled "The Marionette Theatre" which appeared in the issue of June 6, and was warned to refrain in future from publishing articles likely to offend national and religious feelings of any section of the local foreign community.

Mr. Svinyin-Svetloff stated that his newspaper was devoted to the propaganda of the ideas of his group and was of the opinion that the article contained nothing objectionable. However he promised to comply with the request of the Police and refrain from publishing articles of this nature in future.



[Signature]
C. D. I.

D. C. (Special Branch)

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File No.

S.1, Special Branch, ~~Section~~

REPORT

Date June 10, 1938.

Subject Article in the newspaper "Na Rodinu" containing insulting
remarks regarding members of the Romanoff House

Made by D.S.I. Prokofiev Forwarded by *C. G. ...*

In the issue dated June 6, 1938 of the newspaper "Na Rodinu" published by the local pro-Soviet organization known as the "Repatriation Union" appeared an article entitled "The Marionette Theatre," a translation of an extract from which reads as follows :-

The Marionette Theatre

"It was amusing to read recently local "legitimist" newspapers which were full of articles devoted to the marriage of "Grand Duchess" Kira and Prussian prince Louis Ferdinand.

The "representative of the Russian community" even issued a special announcement on the occasion of so joyful an event. As is usual in such cases, a Te Deum was celebrated and a telegram was sent congratulating "Their Majesties on behalf of the Russian Community." An address of welcome and even a present were also sent.

This merry comedy was staged by a miserable group of persons, who are familiar to all of us; they think that they are persons of authority and, therefore, without much ceremony consider that their opinion is the opinion of the Russian community.

These "leaders" pursuing their own personal aims engage in all sorts of activities, while the "people remain silent" Watching this comedy, one is overcome by a feeling of sadness... "What an abominable lie on the part of the "leaders," what an incomprehensible stupidity on the part of the deceived people who are still



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under the hypnotic spell of their "leaders." Take, for instance, the "Nasha Pravda," organ of the local branch of the Union of Mladorossy. What were they writing about during those days ?

Apart from expressions of capture over the "admirable personalities of Their Majesties, the bridegroom and the bride," apart from the usual impudent lies about the Soviet Government and its leaders, articles were published in that newspaper explaining the meaning of the "Mladorossy legitimism." Leaving aside various artful theories regarding the "social legitimism" which only obscure the general view, we see the same old marionette theatre in which a monarch is the principal hero.

The Mladorossy write in black and white that the monarch is the "legitimate ruler of Russia," i.e. a man who has some kind of rights on Russia, as if the latter were an object. This "monarch", it appears, does not ask whether or not the 170 millions of the population of Russia want to have him as their absolute ruler. He calls himself the "Emperor of Russia" and so far is content with this, as being, apparently, a shrewed fellow, he understands quite well that while he is abroad this title is not without some profit to him. For instance, his loyal subjects in various places send their contributions towards the "Tsar's Treasury," the total of which amounts to a decent salary allowing one to lead a modest existence without doing any work.

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There are sometimes advantages in this position. Thus, for instance, it has been possible to arrange for a profitable marriage of the "Grand Duchess" to a representative of the "blue blood".

According to his own declarations, Cyril does not intend to "conquer Russia". This means so much trouble and unpleasantness, that it is better to wait until the "Russian people" "come to their senses" and call back the "legitimate tsar".

The whole thing is ridiculous and sad at the same time. It is felt for the people who allow themselves to be duped, who from their childhood have been used to linking the hands and feet of the "crowned heads" and cannot get away from the idea of being a slave in recognizing the authority of another individual not because the latter is more talented and clever, not even because he is stronger (this one could understand), but merely because he is supposed to have some different kind of blood - the "blue blood", because he is the "anointed one"!

The absurd tale regarding the "anointed ones" is cultivated by the ignorant clergy".....

The vulgar and insulting character of remarks regarding Grand Duke Cyril Vladimirovich, senior member of the Romanoff house, and his daughter, Grand Duchess Kira, cannot fail to arouse the indignation of a large section of the local white Russian community. The whole article is written in an unnecessary provocative attitude and is not conducive to the peace and good order of the settlement to which the Repatriation Union owes a certain amount of gratitude, as a special Police guard has been accorded to them since December last when their club (105 Love Lane) was the subject of a bomb attack.

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From the date of its formation, the Repatriation Union has not been permitted to function in the French Concession, although 75% of members are residents of the Concession.

The responsible editor of the newspaper in question is M.I. Syngin- Ovtloff, who also is the chairman of the Repatriation Union. This individual came to the notice of the Municipal Police during the summer of 1937 when he was the editor of a libellous magazine entitled "The Crooked Mirror". The magazine was banned in the French Concession and subsequently went out of the existence.

A. Prokofiev
D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch)